

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kuybyshev Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Prices, Wages, and Black Market in Kuybyshev	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1955
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1. Local markets in Kuybyshev were well supplied in 1953 with meat, eggs, milk, and potatoes grown on private plots. Vegetables and fruits were scarcer and more expensive. Produce was brought into the city on horse-drawn carts and sleighs or carried pickaback.
2. Butter was sold illegally by employees of State stores, who obtained it through the store and delivered it to the home of the purchaser, charging a price 50 percent above the official rate. Flour was sold only before important holidays. New radios, electric meters, wool, and clothing obtained by bribing the personnel of State stores were sold at bazaars in Kuybyshev, contrary to the regulation against the sale of new goods on the open market. It was almost impossible to obtain these goods legally. Buckets, felt boots (valenki), and cement were also in short supply. Tools and nails were just beginning to appear on the market.
3. Following are some commodity prices in Kuybyshev in 1953:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in rubles</u>
Butter	1 kilo	30
Bread	1 kilo	2.7
Sugar	1 kilo	9
Milk	1 liter	4 to 5
Vodka	1 liter	30

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC								
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#").

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Eggs	1	1 to 2
Leather shoes	1 pair	200 to 300
Shirt	1	50 to 70
Tailor-made suit	1	600 to 1,000

4. Wages in the aircraft industry in Kuybyshev in 1953 were as follows:

<u>Status of worker</u>	<u>Wages per month in rubles</u>
Skilled worker on piecework	700 to 1,200
Stakhanovite	2,500
Young engineer	1,000 to 1,200
Experienced engineer	2,000 to 2,200 (plus occasional premiums)

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